(Amount in crores of Rs.)

Name of State	December, 1988		March, 1990	
	No. of Accounts	Amount Outstanding	No. of Accounts	Amount Outstanding
Uttar Pradesh	292043	1106	323404	1360
Madhya Pradesh	178532	526	201484	629

(c) and (d) The year-wise and bank-wise figures for the last two years are not available. However, at the end of March, 1990 (the latest available), the number of sick SSI units in Uttar Pradesh which enjoyed bank finance were 27862 with outstanding credit of Rs. 207 crores. Of these, 27458 units are considered as non-viable, the viability of 61 units has as yet not been ascertained, the remaining 343 units are considered potentially viable. Out of the potentially viable sick units, 238 units with an outstanding balance of Rs. 29 crores are under the nursing programme of banks.

Opium seized by CBI in Rajasthan

1923. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation had seized more than 88 kg. of contraband opium valued at about Rs. 1.5 crores from Rajasthan on or about 24th of December, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details of persons apprehended in connection therewith;

(c) whether any gang of smugglers or contraband operators was unearthed in connection therewith;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the total amount of opium and other narcotics seized by various security and other revenue and enforcement agencies during 1991 and what are the comparative figures for 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigations officers had seized 88.4 kgs. of opium on 20th December, 1991 near bus stand Jhalawar, Rajasthan. No precise valuation of the opium, which is often of indeterminate consistency and composition, is feasible.

(b) to (d) S/Shri Mubarik Hussain and Zakir Hussain, residents of village Chattarpur, District Jhalawar, Rajasthan were arrested. Further investigations revealed involvement of two more persons who are evading arrest.

(e) The quantity of narcotic drugs seized by various agencies during the year 1990 and 1991 is as under:

Drug	Quantity seized (in Kgs.)	
	1990	1991
Opium	2114	1977
Heroin	2193	621
Morphine	6	5
Ganja	39090	48210
Hashish	6388	4397
Cocaine	1	—

Impact of Devaluation on Cost of Living

1924. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the effect of the recent devaluation of Inidan rupee on our exports;

(b) whether it is a fact that such a step has raised the cost of living substantially in the country; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to check the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The adjustment in the exchange rate of Rupee effected in July, 1991, was part of a package of policies aimed at restoring confidence and enhancing the international competitiveness of Indian exports. This, together with wide ranging structural reforms in the spheres of industry and trade, is expected to provide a solid foundation for export growth. It is, however, too early to gauge the impact of these policy changes on exports which would only be felt with a time lag when the processes of adjustment are fairly underway. The impact of devaluation on cost of living is not significant as import-intensive items do not carry substantial weight in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the industrial workers. Indeed, the rate of increase in the CPI dropped from 5.7 per cent in the second quarter to 1.8 per cent in the third quarter of the current financial year. Increased production facilitated by the policy changes, attention to improvement of supply management and the proposed reduction in customs duties will go a long way in checking the price rise.

Settlement Commission on Cases Relating to Indirect Taxes

1925. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Settlement Commission to solve the cases relating to indirect taxes; and

(b) if so, what are the datails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) yes, Sir. The Finance Minister while presenting the Budget for the year 1992-93 stated as under:—

"honourable Members would be aware that a Settlement Commission was established in 1976 under the Income-Tax Act, 1961. I propose to set up a Settlement Commission, on similar lines, for dealing with customs and central excise disputes between the Department and the assessee. I trust this will help in speedy settlement of tax disputes"

Detailed proposals are being formulated in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

मुद्रास्फीति से खाद्यान्नों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि

1926. **श्री रणजीत सिंह :**
डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या वित्त मंत्री 25 फरवरी, 1992 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 115 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1991-92 के दौरान देश में खाद्य उत्पादों के मूल्यों में लगभग 42.3 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होने की संभावना है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का क्या अनुमान है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस मूल्य वृद्धि से उत्पादकों को लाभ नहीं हुआ है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो देश में अनाज के मूल्यों को बढ़ाये जाने के क्या कारण है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर): (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1991-92 (15 फरवरी, 1992 तक)* के दौरान थोक मूल्य सूचकांक में (आधार: 1981-82=100) खाद्य वस्तुओं के संबंध में 20.6 प्रतिशत और खाद्य उत्पादों के संबंध में 10.7 प्रतिशत वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। खाद्य वस्तुओं में, खाद्यान्नों की कीमतों में इस अवधि के दौरान 26.4 प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई। चालू वर्ष की शेष अवधि के दौरान खाद्य उत्पादों की कीमतों पर दबाव के कम होने की संभावना है।

(ग) जी, नहीं। खाद्यान्नों की वसूली कीमतों में पिछले दो वर्षों में तेजी से वृद्धि हुई है। इस अवधि के दौरान उद्योग की तुलना में कृषि से संबंधित व्यापार की अन्तर क्षेत्रवार शर्तों में भी काफी सुधार हुआ है।

(घ) चालू वर्ष के दौरान दालों से भिन्न अनाजों की कीमतों में वृद्धि, मुख्यतः 1991 में खरीफ की अनाजों की फसल (अगस्त, 1991 के अंत तक मानसून की असमान प्रगति के कारण) में गिरावट की संभावना और वसूली कीमतों में काफी वृद्धि तथा सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत चावल और गेहूं की निर्गम कीमतों में परिणामी वृद्धि, जो खुला बाजार कीमतों की प्रवृत्ति निर्धारित करते हैं, के कारण हुई है।